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## Letter, 1862 April 3, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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[ Fragment ]

[ enclosure ]

Camp Mulroy.

April 3<sup>d</sup>. 1862.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

I received your letter yesterday evening the same evening that we were paid off. I would rather have you write the news about home than to write about the war, I get papers every other day from Cincinnati but ~~it~~ they are generally from five to six days old, that is about the time it takes ~~for~~ letters to get through. We drill every day about, in the fore noon we have Company drill, in the after noon Battallion drill, that is, the whole Regiment drill together under command of the Colonel. To finish up every drill the Regiment is divided in the center into two wings, right & left wings of a Battallion, one wing is detached off about one hundred and fifty yards, then <sup>Battallion</sup> then fire



bayonette, The order then is to  
Charge bayonette, double quick,  
March! Each wing set up a  
yell like so many Indians, on  
they come like so many devils  
thirsting for ~~the~~ well no matter  
but just as the bayonette cross a  
halt is ordered and the stop  
as if shot. I think it would  
frighten any one not used to  
such things. Some times they  
come so close together that the  
bayonette pass between the men.  
There has <sup>been</sup> no one been hurt  
what yet but I look for it  
every time, It is a grand sight  
to see eight or nine hundred men  
coming towards each other on the  
double quick with arms at a  
charge, then to come so close together  
and no one hurt. makes it still  
more interesting but very dangerous.  
We are having some fine weather  
in Va we are in a  
beautiful vale, through which



runs the Lagarto river, a  
clear rapid stream full of  
speckled Mountain Trout, but  
they are hard to catch.

Yesterday I sent \$50.00 to you  
by Express, our Sutter Mr Anderson  
takes it to Cincinnati and it  
will be expressed to you from  
there. I also send \$20.00 for  
Channing White. Making in all  
\$70.00. I received \$63.00 in  
all for four months they still  
owe me for one month.

Give my Respects to all.

Inclosed you will find  
a ring for Ann. Remember  
me to her, and also to Mrs Lacy  
I believe it is (Margaret).

Also all my Lacy friends in  
Yellow Springs.

I have not seen Tom Wilmarth  
for over a month and a half.  
He is in Beverly, or was there.  
There is plenty of Maple sugar  
and Molasses out here. Sugar

is worth .20¢ pr lb, molasses  
1.00 pr gal. We are living  
very comfortable here and in  
good trim for fighting.

I received your letter that  
spoke of the papers, and  
the papers themselves, for  
which I send a scrap in  
return.

I am acting Orderly Sgt. I don't  
know whether I told you before  
or not.

When you write again have the  
girls write also, and give me  
the news about town.

A few weeks ago we were ordered to attack  
the Rebels at a strong hold called Baldwins  
cane about 30 miles from here. Milroy has  
tried it twice and ~~has~~ was driven back  
both times and wanted to try again,  
but Gen. Rosecrans heard of it and  
he put a stop to it, and telegraphed to  
Milroy that when ~~he~~ it was time  
for an advance he would give the  
orders him self, so we lay here still.  
Nothing more this time.

But am as ever your son

Asa D. Ladley.



G, FEBRUARY 5, 1862.

## FROM TENNESSEE.

*An Interesting Story—The Late Defeat—Faith in the Success of our Cause.*

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.]

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Jan. 30, 1862.

I yesterday conversed with a young man in the General Hospital at this place, whose story is interesting. His name is W. L. Richardson; he is a native of Choctaw county, Mississippi; he was eighteen years old the 5th of last September. Some two years ago he left home and proceeded to St. Louis to engage in the service of a fur company, and go on an expedition to the Rocky Mountains. Failing in this, he went up into Minnesota, and settled near St. Paul. When the present war broke out he started back to Mississippi. Arriving at St. Joseph, Missouri, he was unable to get farther; he volunteered in the Northern army, expecting to be sent to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and intending to desert from that place and make his way to Mississippi. He was attached to the 2d Missouri regiment, Col. Martin. Instead of going to Fort Smith, this regiment was ordered, via Columbus, Ohio, to Western Virginia, and formed part of the command of Gen. Rosecrans.

He says he was in the battle of Carnafax Ferry, or Gauley Cliffs, as it is called by the Federals. I questioned him particularly about this engagement and its results to the Lincoln army. He affirmed that Rosecrans lost eighteen hundred killed in the battle. He said many placed it at twenty-two hundred, but the common estimate was the former number. I interrogated him two or three times on this point, and he was distinct and emphatic in making the above statement.

I then inquired how many were wounded? He said the number was very large—that from that point back to Charleston, a distance of thirty miles, every house along the road was filled with the wounded, people being turned out of doors to make room for them.

You may estimate these statements at what you think they are worth. If I remember, the *Dispatch* at one time expressed an opinion that the Federal loss in that battle was vastly greater than reported and commonly believed to be. In the table published in your columns a few days ago, their killed are put down at 150, and wounded at 250. Their aggregate losses during the war are figured up at 4,825 killed in battle, and 7,614 wounded. Whereas the *New York Times* places their losses at 11,000 killed, and 17,000 wounded. The obvious inference is, that in many instances we have greatly under-estimated the number which they have lost.

This young man said Rosecrans had in that expedition eighteen regiments, and that he employed eleven of them in the attack on Floyd's forces. He says they advanced seven times against the latter's breastworks, and that, being stationed on the side of Gauley mountain, on Rosecrans's left, he witnessed five of the charges. After the firing ceased, the Federal General retired about four miles, and sent a force of several regiments to go round Gauley mountain, by old Mr Gooseberry's, and come down the river, upon Floyd's rear. The distance to be gone over was about 11 miles; but before they could accomplish the march, Floyd was gone. The day after the battle, he was within Floyd's evacuated fortification, but saw no blood, or traces of men having been killed and wounded. The breastwork, about six hundred yards in length, reached from Gauley river across a bottom to Gauley mountain, on the right. He admired the position very much, and also the military character of Gen. Floyd, whom he considered more than a match for Rosecrans. Referring to him, he said, "I would be under that man."

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### East Tennessee.

The enemy ought not to be permitted to retain a foothold in East Tennessee. It is the most important strategic point in the Confederacy. We can well afford to give up places on the seaboard, but East Tennessee is a horse of a different color. It is about time that we should awake to the necessity of preserving such sections as East Tennessee and South-western Virginia. We have called attention to it long ago and often. We hope it is not yet too late.

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Gen. Beauregard calls on the planters of the Mississippi Valley to give all their plantation bells to be cast into cannon.

**W**ANTED—A SUBSTITUTE in a Mounted Ranger Company, now encamped at the new Fair Grounds, to whom a bonus of \$50 will be paid; also, horse, uniform, and equipments. None need apply but a non-resident of this State. Apply immediately at the Blacksmith Shop of

**BOYLE & GAMBLE,**  
Near Danville Depot.

fe 4—21\*



# Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY MORNING..FEB 5 1862

## SONG OF THE SENTINEL.

Sleep, comrade ! sleep in slumbers deep !  
No foe across our line shall creep ;  
No hireling horde, with sudden screams,  
Shall break of home your peaceful dreams.

In calm repose till morn uncloze  
Its brightness o'er the earth that glows  
With beauty in the midnight lost,  
I'll faithful wait and watch my post.

The chilling blast, the snow-flake fast,  
From the dim, darkling clouds that's cast—  
Nor biting frost, nor raining spell,  
Shall faithless find the sentinel.

But, gently as the morning stays, —  
To loved ones left fond memory strays ;  
And thoughts of home keep bright the eye  
That watches for a foeman nigh.

Dear hearts at home ! no harm shall come,  
No danger near your peaceful dome,  
If faithful sentinel can keep  
The dangers from your dwelling. Sleep !

For ah ! even sleeping, well I know,  
As night e'er finds the stars aglow,  
Affection keeps his image bright  
That watches in the "study night !"

And in their prayers and in their tears  
The triumph of our cause appears ;  
And strength is given of heart and hand  
To drive the spoiler from our land.

Sleep, comrades ! sleep, in slumbers deep !  
No foe across our line shall creep ;  
No hireling horde, with sudden screams,  
Shall break of home your peaceful dreams.